

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 HA-05 /107 W
-----130055 021355Z /72

P R 021212Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2129
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1251

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG SF BC
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTSWANA EXTAFF REP'S REACTION TO SWAPO
REJECTION OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL

1. L.M. MPOTOKWANE, SECRETARY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TOLD EMBOFF
APRIL 29 HE WAS DISMAYED OVER NUJOMA'S REJECTION OF CONTACT
GROUP PROPOSAL AND THAT, BY THIS IRRESPONSIBLE ACT, SWAPO
LOST THE INITIATIVE TO THE SAG AND PRACTICALLY ELIMINATED
ITSELF FROM THE CONTEST FOR POWER IN NAMIBIA. SWAPO'S
INTRANSIGENCE WOULD GIVE THE SOUTH AFRICANS THE EXCUSE NEEDED
TO PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN SETTLEMENT.

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2. WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE FRONTLINE STATES WOULD SHOW
PUBLIC SOLIDARITY WITH MUJOMA, MPOTOKWANE REPLIED THAT,
REGARDLESS OF THE ATTITUDES OF OTHERS, BOTSWANA WOULD SHOW
DISAPPOINTMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER BOTSWANA WILL TAKE

A PUBLICALLY CRITICAL STANCE TOWARD SWAPO'S REJECTION. NEVER-
THELESS, AS NUMBER TWO MAN IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MPOTOKWANE'S
VIEWS ARE THOSE OF THE GOB AND SUGGEST THAT BOTSWANA IS PREPARED,
MORE THAN AT ANY TIME BEFORE, TO ASSERT ITS OWN MODERATE VIEWS
ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE COUNCILS OF THE
FRONTLINE STATES.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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